

an important share of adoration is enjoyed
 "by a group
 avowedly subordinate to INDEA,—involving
 an obvious
 allegory,—the MAEUTS, or Winds, who are
 naturally
 associated with the firmament. We have₅
 indeed, a god
 of the wind, in VAYU ; but little is said of
 him, and
 that, chiefly .in association with INDEA,—
 with whom he
 is identified by scholiasts on the *Veda*.
 The MAEUTS,
 on the contrary, are frequently addressed
 as the at-
 tendants and allies of INDEA, confederated
 w[^]ith him in
 the battle with VBITEA, and aiding and
 encouraging
 his exertions. They are called the sons of
 PBISNI, or the
 earth, and, also, EXJDEAS, or sons of BUDEA ;
 the mean-
 ing of which affiliations is not very clear,
 although, no
 doubt, it is allegorical. They are, also,
 associated, on
 some occasions, with AGNI ; an obvious
 metaphor, ex-
 pressing the action of wind upon fire.
 It is, also,
 intimated that they were, originally, mortal,
 and became •
 immortal in consequence of worshipping
 AGNI, which
 is, also, easy of explanation. Their
 share in the pro-
 duction of rain, and their fierce and
 impetuous nature,
 are figurative representations of physical
 phenomena.
 The Scholiast endeavours to connect the
 history of

their origin with that narrated in the
Purāṇas, but
without success; and the latter, absurd as
it is, seems
to have no better foundation than one
proposed ety-
mology of the name,— "Do not (*md*) weep
(*rodih*),"—
—Which is merely fanciful, although it is
not 'much
worse than other explanations of the
name which
commentators have suggested (p. 225,
note a).

The ADITYAS, or lesser Suns, are
especially the sons
of ADITI, who has, in general, the
character of mother